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Dr. William Hayes
Department of Genetics
Research School of Biological Sciences
Australian National University
Canberra, ACT 2601
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Dear Dr. Hayes,

It has been many years since we met when I gave a lecture at your institute in London and I now understand that you are living in Australia. In the meantime I have become interested in the early history of bacterial genetics and have been examining records and documents related to this field. In a recent visit with Francois Jacob in Paris, we discussed the early work which you and Jacob and Wollman did together in developing the Hfr concept. I am trying to obtain insights into the state of thinking at the time this work was underway. One of the most useful ways of obtaining insight into this matter is to examine unpublished correspondence, progress reports, grant proposals, or original data books. Some workers in this field have been very scrupulous in keeping most of their early records whereas others have not. I have been in correspondence with Joshua Lederberg who has maintained excellent records through the years and I have also examined the Max Delbruck papers at Cal Tech which are in excellent shape. I had hoped that I might find papers of Jacob and Monod in Paris but unfortunately they seem to have been discarded.

I am writing you to learn of the disposition of your own papers. Have you deposited your papers in a university archive, either in Australia or the U.K.? I would be greatly interested in examining your records and documents from this period. Any help which you may be able to give me in this regard would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Brock
E.B. Fred Professor of Natural Sciences

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